

Chairman Thompson: All right. Did you tell Mr. Eckstein that Mr. Ickes had told you to make the decision without delay?

Secretary Babbitt: I did not.

Chairman Thompson: Tell us again what you told Mr. Eckstein about that.

Secretary Babbitt: Senator, my best recollection is that I may well have said something to the effect that Mr. Ickes expects me to make a decision or Mr. Ickes wants me to make a decision.

Chairman Thompson: Any time in the future, is that what you are telling us, that you were relating to him – I mean, here you are. He has been told by your counselor to get immediately right in there. You knew that the decision was going to be made that very day. You told him that Mr. Ickes was in touch with you on it and wanted you to make a decision.

Secretary Babbitt: Right.

Chairman Thompson: Doesn't all of that imply that you were telling him that there was some concern being expressed to you that a decision be made immediately or that day or forthwith or rapidly?

Secretary Babbitt: Senator, there was no such expression made to me by Mr. Ickes or anyone else.⁶⁶⁹

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Chairman Thompson: . . . Did you not say that in your testimony earlier that you told Mr. Eckstein that Mr. Ickes wanted you to issue a decision?

Secretary Babbitt: I told - - to the best of my recollection, I said something to Mr. Eckstein to the effect that Mr. Ickes expected or wanted a decision.

Chairman Thompson: Well, certainly that meant something more than just carrying out your duties. I mean, clearly, a decision had to

⁶⁶⁹*Id.* at 243-44.